

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 798, which will establish a voluntary, county-option drug repository and distribution program to distribute surplus medications to persons in need of financial assistance. This program will utilize drugs that would otherwise be discarded to provide free prescriptions to medically indigent patients.

I share the author's concern that some Californians are unable to purchase needed prescription drugs, which is why I proposed the California Pharmacy Assistance Program (Cal Rx) to provide prescription drug discounts to uninsured Californians. The adverse effects of not having access to affordable prescription drugs are serious - increased severity of disease, reduced productivity, and compromised quality of life. While SB 798 is not a comprehensive solution to this important problem; it provides a creative mechanism to take advantage of surplus medication that would otherwise be discarded, and get it in the hands of uninsured low-income Californians who need it.

For these reasons, I am pleased to sign Senate Bill 798.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger